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PHYSICAL BASES OF CRIME: A Symposium. American Academy of Medicine Press, Easton, Pa., 1914. Pp. 188.

This volume consists of papers that formed the bases of discussion at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Medicine, held at Minneapolis in June, 1913. Most of the nineteen papers comprising the volume attack the problem of the physical basis of crime from some angle in the medical field. The others do not stray far from this purpose.

One of the most instructive papers is that by Dr. Edith R. Spaulding of the Reformatory for Women, South Framingham, Mass., and Dr. William Healy of the Psychopathic Institute of Chicago. The work on which it is based was done at the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute, Chicago, and consists of the study of one thousand cases, the problem being to discover what evidence, if any, there is of the existence of hereditary criminalistic traits as such, that is, criminalistic traits not having a physical basis in some defect, malformation, disease, etc. The authors declare that inheritance as a factor in criminality must be studied under two heads, (1) the direct inheritance of criminalistic traits in otherwise normal individuals, and (2) the indirect criminalistic tendencies through such hereditary factors as epilepsy, insanity, feeble-mindedness and the like. Working with a thousand cases they conclude that they find no evidence of the existence of criminalistic traits as such. There is much evidence of *indirect* inheritance through mental and physical defects. Some of these defects, while not criminalistic in themselves, will in a favorable environment develop into criminalistic factors. The idea that there exist bare criminalistic traits apart from definite discoverable mental, physical, or environmental factors, the authors say, is an unsubstantiated metaphysical hypothesis.

Quite in line with the theme of the paper just mentioned is one by Doctor Goddard of the Vineland Training School, on Relation of Feeble-mindedness to Crime, which points out the close relationship between the two. Doctor Goddard suggests that the best means of dealing with the feeble-minded is to discover them in the school period, and then to attempt to control them according to their needs; much criminality can be avoided in this way.

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